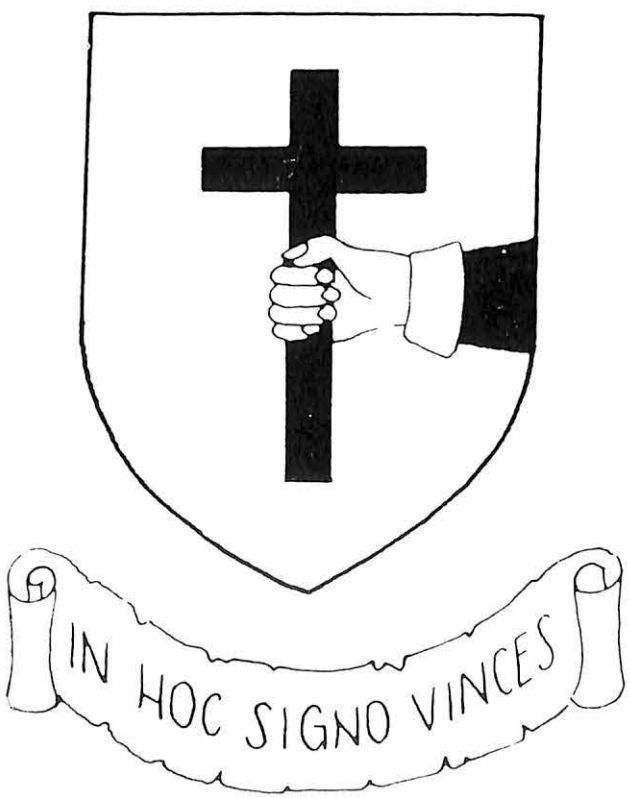
ISSN 0790-7389

Ó Domhnaill Abú



O Donnell Clan Newsletter No. 6

Autumn 1986

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CLANN DALAIGH

by V. O'Donnell

(1600 to the present)

THE SPANISH LINE

The O'Donnells of Spain, while ordinarily following the traditional profession of arms, found themselves at times, swept along by the tide of politics, and were destined to play a leading part in the affairs of the country of their adoption.

JOSEPH (36), born Mayo, 1722, the founder of the branch, was colonel of the Regiment of Ultonia and eventually rose to the rank of Lieut.-General. He had a large family, four of which served in the army. They were:-

HENRIQUE (43d), born 1770 who was renowned for the part he played in the defence of the strategic town of Gerona that straddled the main highway between Barcelona and France. The defending garrison was the depleted Regiment of Ultonia consisting of 424 officers and men, under the command of Colonel Antonio O'Kelly with Major Henrique O'Donnell as second-in-command. Henrique pressed every able-bodied man into service, even forming a company of clerical students, and trained them throughly in the art of war. The seige lasted eighteen months and at one period an attack by 30,000 French was beaten off. He was created Count of Abisbal for reducing the Fortress of l'Abisbal at another stage in the campaign. It was here he received a leg wound that left him lame for life. He rose to the rank of Lieut.-General, became Director General of Infantry and Regent of Spain during the incapacity of Ferdinand VII. He died at Montpellier, France in 1833. His only son - Leopoldo (301), 2nd Count Abisbal and a Captain of the Royal Guard was taken prisoner at Alsuzua in 1833 and shot in cold blood the next day. s.p.

ALEJANDRO (43b), born 1774, was Colonel of Infantry. He died in 1837. His only son, Jose (300), 1806-1882, was Chief of Civil Administration.

JOSEPH (43a), born 1772, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Ferdinand, Lieut. General and Captain General of Old Castile and of Valencia. He died in 1830 and left no male issue.

Carlos (43), born 1772/3, also had a distinguished army career. He was Captain General of Old Castile and Director General of Artillery during the Peninsular War. He died at Madrid in 1830. His son:-

Leopoldo (51), born 1809, was the outstanding figure in Spain in his time and has been rated as one of the greatest of his race. He served in the army from an early age, winning rapid promotion. He was given the title, Count de Lucena and the high post of Captain General of Cuba for his services in the Carlist War. He returned home, rose to the rank of Field-Marshal, became Prime Minister and Minister of War. He conducted the brilliant campaign against the Moors that won Morocco for his country in 1860. This military victory made him tremendously popular. He was created Duke of Tetuan and received many other worthy honours in acknowledgment of his political and military skill. He died without issue in 1867 and the title went to his nephew Carlos (58). Leopoldo had three brothers:-

HENRIQUE (50b), 1843-1869, was Liet.-General and Director General of Cavalry.

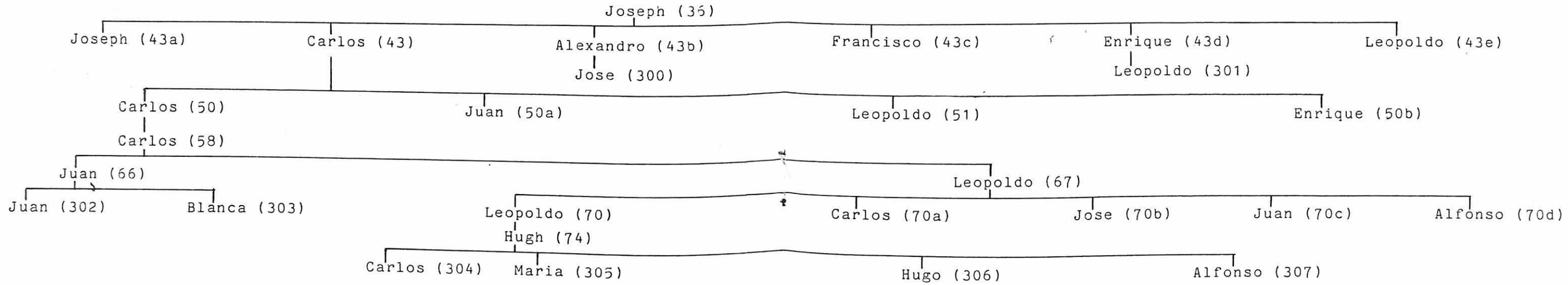
JUAN (50a), born 1804, Commander of the Royal Guard. He was assasinated by the populace in 1836.

CARLOS (50), 1802-1835, was General of Cavalry and Chief of the Royal Guard. He was killed in action. He had one son:-

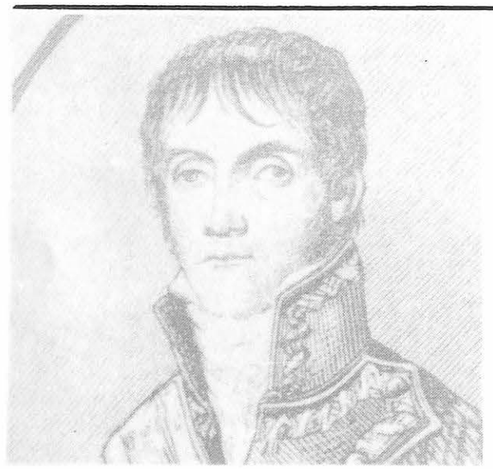
CARLOS (58), 2nd Duke of Tetuan and Marquis of Altamira, born in 1834. He filled many offices, among them, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ambassador at Vienna. He kept up a close association with Ireland, corresponding with the Larkfield O'Donnells. On the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations of the birth of St. Columbkille, held at Gartan on the 9th of June, 1897, he sent a telegram to His Lordship, Patrick O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe to be read to the assemblage. The 2nd Duke died in 1903 and the title passed to his son:-

SPANISH BRANCH (An off-shoot from the Castlebar Line)

GENEALOGICAL CHART No.5
Prepared by V. O'Donnell

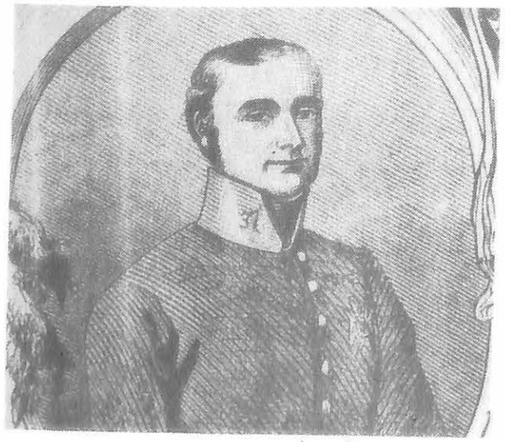


This chart shows only the main line, a full chart would be impossible as there were many large families as indeed there are today. Wives have been omitted but suffice to say most were nobility.

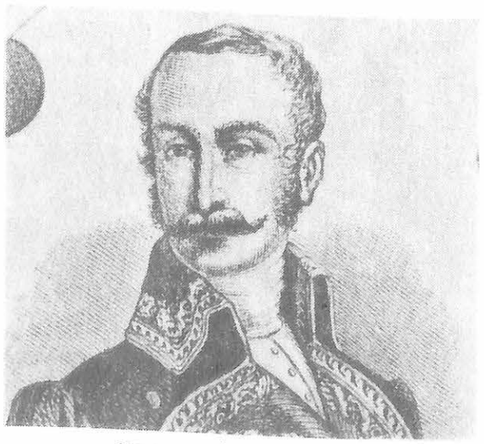


CARLOS (43)

JOSEPH (43a)

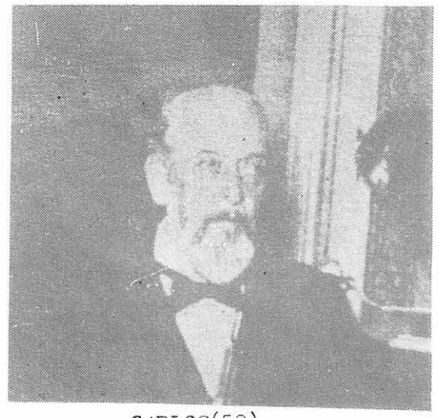


ALEXANDRO (43b)



ENRIQUE (43d)

LEOPOLDO, Ist. DUKE OF TETUAN (51)



CARLOS(58)

LEOPOLDO(67)

JUAN (66), born 1864, who became Lieut.-General of Cavalry. He, too, held many important posts, among them, Minister for War. Despite his lack of English, he presided over the stormy Irish Race Congress that was held in Paris in 1922. He died in 1928, leaving one son:-

JUAN (302), the 4th Duke, born 1898, died unmarried in 1932. his sister-

BLANCA (303), born 1899 was the 5th to hold the title. Her house was looted during the Spanish Civil War and family records stolen or destroyed. A volume of the Annals of the Four Masters that belonged to her grandfather, the 2nd Duke, was found years afterwards in a second-hand bookshop by the Director of the Irish College, Salamanca, and restored to her. She left no children and, upon her death, in 1952, the title was inherited by her cousin:-

LEOPOLDO (70), born 1915 and today alive and well and living in Madrid. As well as being the present Duke of Tetuan, he is also Marquis of Las Salinas. Accompanied by his wife, Consuelo, he travelled to Dublin in 1956 when he was conferred with a Doctorate of Laws, honoris causa, degree by the National University of Ireland. He was also present at the 1980 Clan Gathering in Donegal Town. His only son:-

HUGH (74), Count de Lucena, was born in 1948. He is a lawyer, an historian and is at present a Captain in the Spanish Navy. Hugh has been to Ireland on many occasions and attended both the 1980 and 1982 Clan Gatherings. He is married to Maria Armada and to date they have four children - Carlos (304), Hugo (305), Maria (306) and Alfonso (307), aged 12, 11, 7 and 2 years respectively.

The Duke's other brothers are:-

CARLOS (70a), born 1916, married with eight of a family. Died in 1972.
JOSE (70b), born 1918, married with eight of a family.
JUAN (70c), born 1919, married with three of a family.
ALFONSO (70d), born 1921, married with four of a family.

Leopoldo (70), Duke of Tetuan and Marquis of Las Salinas, during the conferring ceremony in 1956. On the right is Eamon De Valera, the Chancellor of the National University of Ireland.

Hugh (74), Count de Lucena with his wife, Maria at the 1982 Clan Gathering in Donegal Town.

Letters, articles, subscriptions, etc. should be sent to The Editor, Vincent O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal, Eire. Tel. (073) 36059
Yearly Subscription: Ireland and Britain £5.00 - Other Countries £6.00

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MANUS O'DONNELL, 21st Lord of Tir Chonaill

Manus, the son of Aodh Dubh the 20th Chieftain, was probably born about 1490. He lived at a time of great change when the old Gaelic way of life was under constant attack from the feudal system, and treachery, violence and family disloyalty were rife. Being a fierce and tough soldier he was well able for the difficulties surrounding him as he was soon to prove.

In 1510 he was left in charge of Tir Chonaill while his father went on a pilgrimage to Rome. Quite soon his country was attacked by an O'Neill army but Manus, with the help of the MacSwineys, defended it so well that the Tyrone men returned home without success. A few years later Manus had his revenge when with the aid of his father and 1,500 gallowglasses he plundered Tyrone as far as Dungannon and made O'Neill give up his claim to Inishowen and Kinel Moen (the Lagan country of East Donegal).

What has been described as the bloodiest battle ever between Cineal Chonaill and Cineal Eoghain was fought at Cnoc Bui (Knockavoe) near Strabane in 1522. Manus was defending his base at Lifford against an O'Neill (retaliatory) attack. It ended in great victory for Manus - over 900 of O'Neill's army were killed and much booty taken.

O'Neill was back seeking revenge a few years later but in vain. Manus with the help of more gallowglasses beat off the combined forces of O'Neill and the Lord Deputy (Garret Oge). In 1526 Manus and his father once again invaded Tyrone and took much booty.

In 1527 Manus built a magnificent castle at Port-na-dtri-namhad at Lifford. It was of stone with a wooden superstructure and he often had to beat off the O'Neills who made every effort to obstruct the building.

The last years of his father's life were difficult for Manus. His half-brother, Aodh Bui, was a rival for the Chieftainship and for several years they fought each other. Aodh Dubh died in 1537 and Manus managed to have himself inaugurated as Chieftain in his place. Aodh Bui died the next year and this left the field clear for Manus who was entering on the most critical period of his career.

As well as being a great soldier he was also fond of literature and even composed some poetry. He caused the "Life of Colmcille" (his kinsman) to be compiled from the many sources then available. While wooing the Lady Eleanor Fitzgerald, a sister of Garret Oge, he penned the following lines:

Uaimse ag inghin an Iarla
Truagh gan iasacht mo chroidhe
Go dtuigeadh fein nach bhfeadar
Breagadh croidhe i mbi toirse.

which have been translated thus:

The daughter of a certain Earl
My heart may freely borrow
'Twill teach a lesson to the girl
Who lured me to my sorrow.

She married him eventually only because she believed he would help her to protect a boy, the last of the Fitzgeralds, from the clutches of Henry VIII who had shortly before killed six of the family. But she soon suspected that her husband was planning to hand over the boy to the English for certain favours and so she had the boy smuggled out to France and she herself went back to her own people.

Manus however did come to terms with the English. He met St. Leger, the Lord Deputy, who described him as being the best-dressed Irishman he had ever seen, wearing 'a coat of crimson velvet with aglets of gold and over that a great double cloak of bright crimson satin guarded with black velvet and a bonnet with a feather set full of aglets of gold: we thought it strange to see him so honourable and all the rest of his nation that I have seen yet so vile'.

Manus accepted Henry VIII's policy of 'surrender and regrant' but this same policy meant very little in a remote

area such as Tir Chonaill. Indeed Manus was to have more trouble from within his own family for the remainder of his life than from the English. He defeated his son Calvach in 1548 at a battle near Ballybofey. In 1555, with the help of some Scottish mercenaries Calvach took his father prisoner and made himself a de facto Lord of Tir Chonaill.

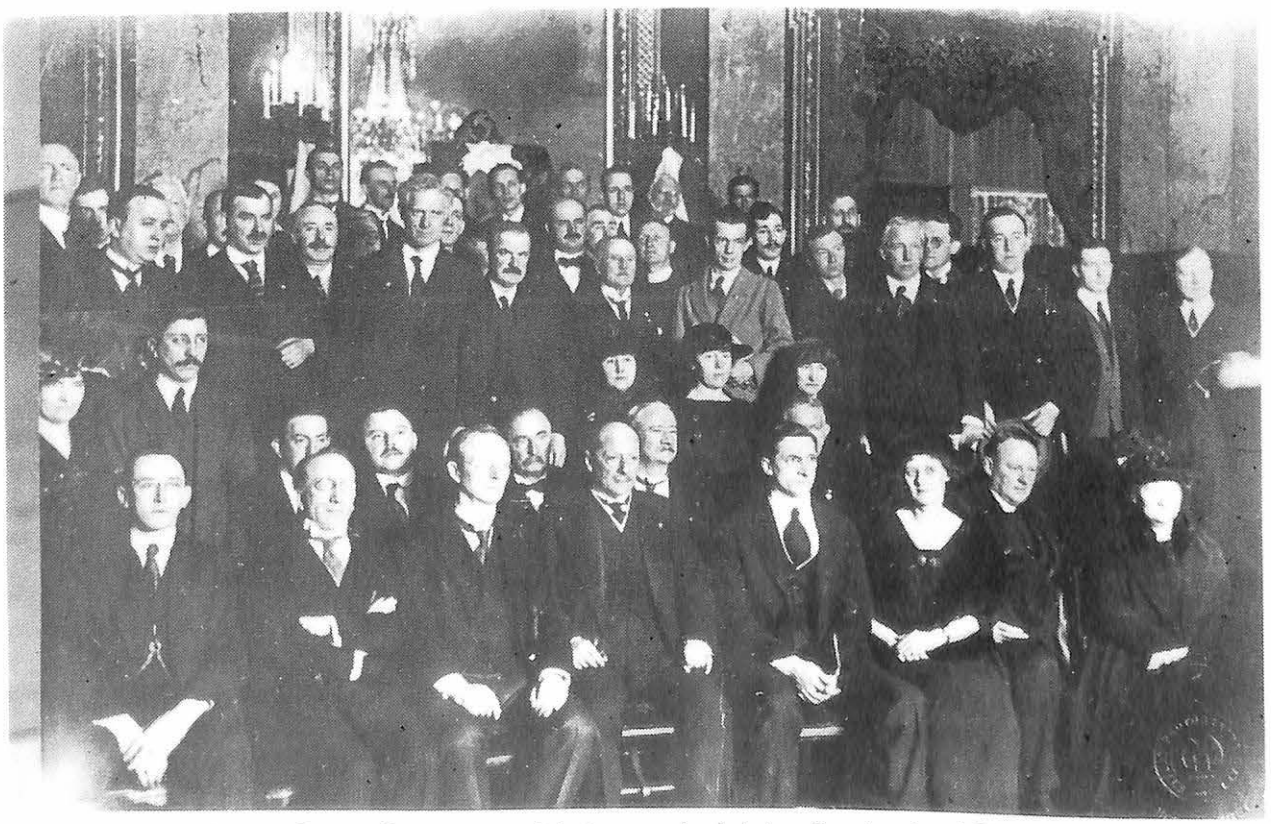
Manus spent several years as his son's prisoner and very unhappy years they were as he expresses in the following lines:

Is cuid de na saobhaidh saobha
Is iad araon 'n mbeathaidh
O Domhnaill ar an gCalbhach
'S gan acht Maghnus ar a athair.

Calvach gained little by his unfilial behaviour. His brothers resented his conduct and with the help of Sean O'Neill (Sean an Diomais) they captured and imprisoned Calvach.

Manus's freedom was short lived. He died early in 1564 at his mansion at Lifford and was buried in the Franciscan Monastery of Donegal. He had led a stormy life with a very mixed experience of triumphs and disasters. The contradictions of his character are well summed up in the obituary notice written by the Four Masters:

"A man who never suffered the chiefs who were in his neighbourhood to encroach on any of his possessions, up to the time of his decease and infirmity; a fierce, obdurate, wrathful and combative man towards his enemies until he had made them obedient to him; and a mild, friendly, benign, amicable, bountiful and hospitable man towards the learned, the destitutes, the poets and ullamhs, towards the orders and the church as is evident from the old people and historians, a learned man skilled in many arts, gifted with a profound intellect and the knowledge of every science.".



Members of the Irish Race Congress which was held in Paris in 1922. It was presided over by Juan O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan (66) from Spain, seen here seated centre front row. On his left is Eamonn De Valera and Maire Nic Suibhne (sister of Terence). On his right, Eoin Mac Neil and Sean T. O'Ceallaigh. Many other famous Irish men and women were present at this Congress.